

REMARKS

Applicants have received the Office Action mailed November 14, 2006. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 22 and 23 and canceled claims 8, 13 and 14 without prejudice; claims 2-7, 9-10, 12 and 15-21 have also been amended. Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 15-23 are pending, and Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants, in order to advance prosecution, have amended independent claims 1, 11 and 22. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a “computing” system, independent claim 11 has been amended to recite a “computer-implemented” method, and independent claim 22 has been amended to recite a machine-readable “storage” medium. Claim 23 has also been amended to recite a “computing” system. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification filed on November 13, 2003, including, for example, at page 14, lines 5-7 and 18-23; page 15, lines 5-9; and at FIG. 6. Accordingly, no new matter has been added, and Applicants request that the § 101 rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,634,127 (“Cloud”). Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 11, 22 and 23. Applicants submit that each of the independent claims 1, 11, 22 and 23, as amended, are patentable over Cloud, as are the corresponding dependent claims.

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification filed on November 13, 2003, including, for example, at page 2, lines 20-22; page 3, lines 16-18; page 6, lines 15-18 and 20-21; page 6, line 24, to page 7, line 6; page 7, lines 13-20; page 8, lines 17-19;

page 10, lines 5-6, 14-16 and 21-23; page 11, lines 10-13; page 14, lines 6 and 9; and at FIG. 6. No new matter has been added.

As presently amended, claim 1 is directed to a computing system comprising “a user interface,” “an object model controller,” “business logic” and “an intermediate layer interposed between the user interface and object model controller, and the business logic.” Each component in the computing system recited by amended claim 1 has the additional features that are now described. The user interface is “configured to collect multiple data entries from a corresponding user device.” The object model controller is “configured to associate, at runtime, the multiple data entries with an object belonging to a model class;” “prevent the object from being modified by another user interface;” and “provide the object with which the multiple data entries are associated to the intermediate layer.” The business logic is “configured to process objects belonging to the model class.” The intermediate layer is “configured to rearrange data in the object into a format that is optimized for processing by the business logic and provide the object whose data has been rearranged to the business logic for processing.”

Cloud generally describes “the integration of heterogeneous computer systems into an enterprise wide message driven client-server system which simplifies network connections and facilitates business process re-engineering.” (Col. 1, lines 8-11). In particular, Cloud is directed to “reduc[ing] the number of sessions required to be maintained in order to service operations from a large number of clients,” in particular “when large numbers of clients and hosts are involved.” (Col. 2, lines 39-40 and 49-51).

Cloud does not anticipate amended independent claim 1. For example, Cloud does not describe or suggest “a user interface configured to collect multiple data entries from a corresponding user device” and “an object model controller configured to associate, at runtime, the multiple data entries with an object belonging to a model class.” Rather, in passages cited by the Office Action, Cloud describes a development process (i.e., not a runtime process) by which the “the developer specifies the type of workflow object to generate and then is guided through a building process.” (Col. 17, lines 45-47). Moreover, Cloud neither mentions nor suggests “an object belonging to a model class.”

As another example, Cloud does not describe or suggest “an object model controller configured to prevent the object from being modified by another user interface.” Rather, in

passages cited by the Office Action to reject similar language in now-canceled dependent claim 8, Cloud describes that “[w]hen the workflow debugger is activated, pre-selected workflow objects ... will provide the following features: ... Save Request data to the Input Request file for use with the Simulator. ...” (Col. 19, lines 56-65). Cloud also describes that “[t]he user can toggle between Update Mode and Browse Mode” and that “[w]hen in Update Mode, field data values are modifiable.” (Col. 20, lines 23-25). These passages coincide with an overall description of “[d]ebugger/simulator modules shown in of [sic] FIG. 6 [that] are available typically in the development environment to provide testing support for workflow objects.” Neither the cited passages, nor other passages in Cloud, recite or suggest “an object model controller configured to prevent the object from being modified by another user interface.”

As another example, Cloud does not describe or suggest “an object model controller” that is “configured to provide the object with which the multiple data entries are associated to the intermediate layer,” and “an intermediate layer” that is “configured to rearrange data in the object into a format that is optimized for processing by the business logic and provide the object whose data has been rearranged to the business logic for processing.” Rather, Cloud describes “a message driven processor (MDP) which translates a request message from a client process into a transactional workflow of one or more transactions required to satisfy the request.” (Col. 3, lines 61-64).

Cloud also does not render amended claim 1 obvious. In particular, the method recited by amended claim 1 gives rise to significant advantages that are neither possible nor contemplated by Cloud. For example, “by interposing an intermediate layer between the UI [user interface] and the BL [business logic], the data collected by the UI may be formatted into an optimal arrangement before reaching the BL layer for processing, thereby decreasing complexity and enhancing efficiency and through-put.” (Specification filed November 13, 2003, at page 8, lines 20-23). “As a result, the BL layer can be more streamlined. For example, the BL layer may be implemented more generically, and may not have to be tailored to receive data for specific user interfaces.” (Id. at page 9, lines 9-11). Moreover, “[t]he intermediate layer can also provide the advantage of allowing a larger amount of data ... to be entered into the UI in a single step.” (Id. at page 10, lines 5-6).

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims 2-7 and 9-10 are patentable over Cloud and ask that the rejections based on Cloud be withdrawn. Amended independent claims 11, 22 and 23 each recite similar language as that discussed above with respect to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, amended claims 11, 22 and 23 are believed to be patentable over Cloud for the reasons provided above with reference to amended claim 1. Applicants ask for the withdrawal of the rejections based on Cloud of amended independent claims 11, 22 and 23 and of the corresponding dependent claims 12 and 15-21.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-7, 9-12 and 15-23 are in condition for allowance and request that they be allowed.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

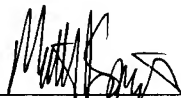
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This response is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination and the corresponding fee. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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